Sunday School Class Questions Fall 2021

Creative Design Art for God's Sake

September 12, 2021

How do you define Art?

John Piper defines art as a craftsmanship to connect an object or action that makes something using a special skill. God Himself is an artist. He made the heavens that tells us about His glory. Where do you see God in creation? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xL3_m65SFhs

Where do you see art in Job 38-39?

The writers of the Bible wrote poetically to produce an effect in us. When you read the Bible, what do you see?

Knowing that God Himself is an artist, and the Bible is poetically written. What do you think are the difficulties of being an artist today? (ex...of creating, executing, and perfecting a design or a composition and feelings of unappreciated or undervalued for your work.)

Some churches do not consider art a serious way to serve God or deny the arts as a legitimate calling and feel that they must justify their existence. Do you look at art to be a waste of time?



In his wonderful little book Art and the Bible, Francis Schaeffer describes a mural in the art museum at Neuchatel, painted by the Swiss artist Paul Robert. Schaeffer writes:

In the background of this mural he pictured Neuchatel, the lake on which it is situated and even the art museum which contains the mural. In the foreground ground near the bottom is a great dragon wounded to the death. Underneath the dragon is the vile and the ugly-the pornographic and the rebellious. Near the top Jesus is seen coming in the sky with his endless less hosts. On the left side is a beautiful stairway, and on the stairway are young and beautiful men and women carrying the symbols of the various forms of art-architecture, music and so forth. And as they are carrying them up and away from the dragon to present them to Christ, Christ is coming clown to accept them.'

Philip Graham Ryken. Art for God's Sake: A Call to Recover the Arts (Kindle Location 337-342). Kindle Edition.

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Art for God's Sake September 19, 2021

Why Do Churches and Artists Need Each Other? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGkWDJ7iuhE

Notes:_____

Who are we as Christian Artist?

How can art lead people to the Gospel?

Where are we taking our calling?

How can we use the following items in music, literature, and drawing?

- Knowing what to believe as a Christian artist.
- Value of beauty that artist can bring.
- Power of the Gospel can be used thorough art to reenact the beauty.

Artists need the church because that is where the Gospel is declared. We are reminded of what Christ has done for everyone, and their identity that they are in union with Christ.

Do you think artist live in a bubble of their creativity?

Church provides a boundary keeping Artist inside the Gospel.

Do you think this helps as an artist to be more open?

Homework: To write, compose, or draw what the Gospel looks like to you and bring it to class next week.

Creative Design Art for God's Sake September 26, 2021

Art and the Church:

How Can the Arts Aid in Evangelism?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vwfZoYRPic&list=PLPwoFK1MBpm6ZngLLEMjJp1EK qnElnUxO

The world interprets truth in creative beauty.

How can we show the "robust truth" of the Gospel as meaningful beautiful?

How to use Christian art to share the gospel...

When truth is absolute (free from imperfection : perfect)

Beauty if subjective (of, relating to, or belonging to a single person)?

What does Christian art look like that effectively testifies God's truth?

Discuss Homework Activity with writing, composing, drawing what the Gospel looks like to you and inspires God's truth.

Art and the Church: Why Is Christian Art So Often Bad? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyX-u0IEOJs

Getting the Gospel message out as efficiently as possible. But when applied to Art, it could be bad if we act in urgency. How can we be efficient in sharing the truth of the Gospel?

Art isn't just meant to transmit a message. But to be a wide-open space for creativity.

What are the ways we can use film, music, and paintings to transmit the message without misusing the creativity to make the Gospel clear?

Theological challenges may be centered around just doing what others are doing.

How can we not just copy what we are seeing?

What inspires us with who God is?... Imagine God and how we are made in His image.

Artist can enjoy the beauty of creation that God has said "is good". The creation is an act of worship. How does the creation help you see God in Art?

Moses seeing God's glory:

¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." Exodus 33:18-20

Art involves your head and heart. Accuracy and beauty. The truth of the Gospel should impact us to worship God. Testifying who God is creates feelings of worship.

How would you describe what God looks like?

Looked over the picture "Lion of Judah" and discussed the beauty and accuracy of the picture. <u>https://fineartamerica.com/featured/1-lion-of-judah-dale-bradley.html</u>

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Creative Design Art for God's Sake October 17, 2021

The Artists Calling Where Are All the Successful Christian Artists? <u>https://youtu.be/oorxsXMPRZQ</u>

List what you think is required of a Christian Artist to achieve success?

The worlds acceptance of success is making compromising like financial security, the world's fame, and acceptance.

What do you define as success for a Christian Artist?

What does each of the following mean to you?

Finding	Satisfaction:	

Giving God Glory:	
5	

Serving People: _____

How do we keep our faithfulness in the front seat?

What is your goal and how do you perceive art?

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Art for God's Sake October 24, 2021

The History of Art in the Church https://youtu.be/N1AZeY7t4cM

Four Fundamental Principles for a Christian theology of the arts:

- 1. The Artist's call and gift come from God
- 2. God loves all kinds of art
- 3. God maintains high standards for goodness, truth, and beauty
- 4. Art is for the glory of God

Building the tabernacle, God called the artists by name (Exodus 31:2, 6) ² "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ⁶ And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you:

Visual Arts:

God then replied to Moses' prayer: "Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a standard: and it shall come to pass, that everyone that is bitten, when he seeth it, shall live" (v. 8). Moses obeyed this command and those who looked upon the "serpent of brass" lived. The striking thing is that Jesus used this incident and this work of art as an illustration of his coming crucifixion: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth may in him have eternal life" (Jn 3:14-15).

But then perhaps someone will say, "Yes, but they smashed it. Hezekiah broke it up in 2 Kings 18:4." That's true. In fact, God was even pleased with its destruction. But why did Hezekiah smash the brazen serpent? "And he [Hezekiah] brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made; for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it." Did he smash it because it was a work of art? Of course not, because God had commanded Moses to make it. He smashed the work of art because men had made it an idol. What is wrong with representational art is not its existence but it's wrong uses.

Schaeffer, Francis A. Art and the Bible (IVP Classics) (pp. 32-33). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

How did God communicate to the common man that couldn't read Latin?

The 4th Commandments:

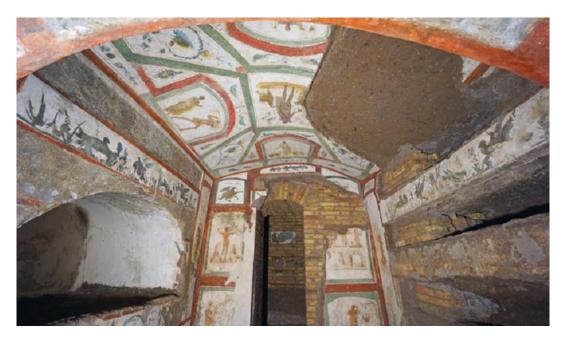
"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. **You shall not bow down to them or serve them**; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. Deuteronomy 5:8-10

How do we define Drawing, Painting or Photography? (ex. purpose or goal)

Stop at 3:04 talk about above

How God talked to people in the past...

The Romans would not enter the catacombs where the dead were buried because of their superstitions of ghosts. As the Christians went into the catacombs to hide from the persecution, they would paint the story of Christianity using symbols people would understand on the walls.



Ceiling of Cubiculum in the Catacomb of Ss. Pietro and Marcellinus. https://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2016/02/catacombs-ofmarcellinus-and-peter.html

Dance, and Music:

"Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!" Psalm 149:3

Music is another art form which the Bible does not ignore. One of the most fantastic pieces of musical art must have been the song the Hebrews sang after they were rescued from Pharaoh's army. Exodus 15 gives us that song. Think of this great host of Israelites—hundreds of thousands of people—gathered on the far side of the Red Sea and singing an antiphonal song—a work of art. "And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to Jehovah, for he hath triumphed gloriously; The horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea" (Ex 15:20-21).

Schaeffer, Francis A., Art and the Bible (IVP Classics) (pp. 40-41). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

How do we define Music or Dancing? (ex. purpose or goal)

Stop at 7:40 talk about above

I brought in archeology books showing some catacomb drawings and art books to look at interpretation. Example Madonna and Child 15th century vs. 2018.

How to Interpret Art and the Bible (Wretched)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09iGcaqloV4

God will do the same thing with everyone who has faith in Jesus Christ. Whenever we are tempted to be discouraged by the ugliness of our sin, we need to remember that we are still a work in progress. The Scripture says that "we are God's workmanship *[or "craftsmanship"-the the Greek term poema was often used in connection with the arts]*, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph. 2:10).

Philip Graham Ryken. Art for God's Sake: A Call to Recover the Arts (Kindle Locations 330-333). Kindle Edition.

Manuscripts, Books, and Maps: The Printing Press and a Changing World Four Important Periods in the History of the Book

I. 7th to 13th Century: The age of religious "manuscript" book production. Books in this period are entirely constructed by hand, and are largely religious texts whose creation is meant as an act of worship.

II. 13th to 15th Century: The secularization of book production. Books are beginning to be produced that do not serve as objects of worship, but that try to explain something about the observable world. The difficulty with the spread of such knowledge is that production is still taking place via pre-print - manuscript - methods.

The production of secular books is driven by two things:

- 1. The rise of universities in Europe, spreading from Italy.
- 2. The return of the crusaders in the 13th century, who bring with them texts from Byzantium. These books, written during the Greek and Roman periods in history, focus on this-world concerns.

III. 15th to 16th Century: The first printed books. These are print versions of traditional works like the Bible, books of hours (prayer books) and the religious calendars. IV. 16th to 17th Century: New information is put into books that has important consequences for European life and society.

The 7th to the 9th century was the heyday of the <u>"illuminated manuscript"</u>.

Production of these works took place in the monasteries scattered across Europe. These religious retreats were the repositories of those texts of Greece and Rome which survived in Europe. They were also the seats of the intellectual life of Europe during the Middle Ages. Monks in the monasteries made copies of the books in their care - both religious and secular manuscripts. However, they did not contribute much more to the advancement of that intellectual tradition, because they were not engaged in thinking about the relationship between the works in their care and the world outside the monastery.

During this time, the production of Bibles was the place where the arts of the monastic scribes, and later lay artists, flowered. It was here that the most elaborate and beautiful illumination found its outlet and the manuscript books from this period represent the height of the art of decoration.

http://shikan.org/bjones/books/four.html

Creative Design Art for God's Sake October 31, 2021

All Kinds of Art Music, Literature, and Entertainment

I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts – to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship. Exodus 31: 3-5

Can I enjoy art produced by unbelievers and glorify God? (John Piper) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LwCgwnfoGs

How do you glorify God with secular things that are produced by an unbeliever?

The Arts can be morally complex. What is the distinction with:

Entertainment (to sit and bask in sin and enjoying it):

Cultural Analysis (study and learn from and enjoying it):

What can we do to not be shaped by the world view?

How do we test our heart as to whether we are defaulting to the world?

Symbolism of art in the tabernacle:

"So, for example, the ark of the covenant symbolized atonement and the golden lampstand symbolized the light of God's glory and grace." Art of God's Sake by Philip Graham Ryken page 33

Music as Art

Psalms refer to all four main forms of music: strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion.

Sing to Him a new song, play skillfully, and shout for joy. Psalm 33:3

Handel's Dettingen (Name of where the battle was held) battle held in 1743 **Te Deum** (A hymn of praise to God sung as part of a Christian liturgy.)

Schaeffer, Francis A.. Art and the Bible (IVP Classics) (pp. 42-43). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

I. Praise to the Trinity

We praise thee, O God: we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.

All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting.

To Thee all Angels cry aloud: the Heavens and all the powers therein.

To Thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry, Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of Thy Glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee.

The godly fellowship of the Prophets praise Thee.

The noble army of Martyrs praise Thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee;

The Father of an infinite Majesty;

Thine honourable, true, and only Son;

Also the Holy Ghost: the Comforter.

II. Praise of Christ

Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

When Thou tookest upon Thee to deliver man: Thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb. When Thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, Thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.

We believe that Thou shalt come to be our Judge.

We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with Thy Saints in glory everlasting.

III. Pravers

O Lord, save Thy people: and bless Thine heritage.

Govern them and lift them up for ever.

Day by day we magnify Thee; and we worship Thy Name, ever world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let Thy mercy lighten upon us: as our trust is in Thee.

O Lord, in Thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded.

Program notes by Linda Mack. Copyright 1999.

https://www.andrews.edu/~mack/pnotes/1999%20Concerts/tedeum.html

John Newton's conversation from being a slave trader to writing Amazing Grace.

He was on this ship returning across the Atlantic, when it encountered a great storm which was threatening to engulf it. This took place on the 10th March 1748. 'That 10th of March', says Newton, "is a day much to be remembered by me; and I have never allowed it to pass unnoticed since the year 1748. For on that day the Lord came from on high and delivered me out of deep waters." https://banneroftruth.org/us/resources/articles/2001/john-newtons-conversion/

> Amazing Grace John Newton; J. P. Rees. Traditional American Melody.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound-That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall cease; I shall possess within the veil, A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun. The Psalms are beautiful poetic songs of prayer.

The Psalms convey three important themes of Hebrew Scripture:

- 1. That God is active in history,
- 2. The necessity of human response to God through praise and prayer
- 3. The beginning of wisdom is to Trust in God and fear of the Lord.

https://biblescripture.net/Psalms.html

Samuel 1:19-27 is a secular ode, a poem by David to the praise of Saul and Jonathan as national heroes. Later in 2 Samuel we are told that David wrote his psalms under the leadership and inspiration of the Holy Spirit: David the son of Jesse sayeth, And the man who was raised on high sayeth, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel: The Spirit of Jehovah spake by me, And his word was upon my tongue. (2 Sam 23:1-2) Acts 2:25-31 confirms the fact that David was a prophet. So we might paraphrase David as follows: *Yes, I was a prophet. I was a forth-teller of God. And how did I write? Well, I wrote my poetry under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.*

Schaeffer, Francis A., Art and the Bible (IVP Classics) (pp. 34-35). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

We need to love and enjoy what Christ loves and enjoys.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8

Evolution of Worship Music https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SaBhN2idbM

Mike Lewis I love the Jesus Painter: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Op2PN37CpL4 Creative Design Art for God's Sake November 7, 2021

Art for the Glory of God

Creating Art for God:

God's Call for Creativity https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPtsHY-Tz-l

What form of creativity do you think you were "born" to do?

What tangible role does your creativity play in your life?

But since God has made us to enjoy beauty, art itself is able to nourish our souls. Philip Graham Ryken. Art for God's Sake: A Call to Recover the Arts (Kindle Location 261).

Sharing that beauty with others. Who does this glorify and how does it represent God's love?

Julie Soltis coming in to share the Gospel of John books and how creativity can share the gospel.

Informed the class that we are looking for advent art for this year's Advent Devotional.

Shared the Illumination and Inspirational books that reflect what the script drew instead of wrote. Handed out blank journals and then did 20 minutes of starting to work on a personal illumination/inspirational journal.

Played Chris Tomlin videos while doing the activity.

Chris Tomlin – *Gifts From God* (ft, Chris Lane) <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfLGfulNnG4</u>

Creative Design Art for God's Sake November 14, 2021

The Art Work as an Art Work:

Email out ahead of time: <u>https://makotofujimura.com/writings/how-to-see-my-painting/</u>

In the beginning, **God created the heavens and the earth**. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1-2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things **were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made**. John 1-3

When I was younger, I thought it was wrong to use the word create in reference to works of art. I thought it ought to be used solely in relation to what God can do. Later, I saw that I was desperately wrong; I am now convinced that it is important to understand that both God and man create. Both make something. The distinction is this: **God, because he is infinite, can create out of nothing by his spoken word**. We, because **we are finite, must create from something else that has already been created**. Yet the word create is appropriate, for it suggests that what man does with what is already there is to make something new. Schaeffer, Francis A.. Art and the Bible (IVP Classics) (pp. 52-53). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

Finding God Through Art https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKu1f3TWIQQ

As a Christian we know why a work of art has value. Why? *First*, because a work of art is a work of creativity, and creativity has value because God is the Creator. *Second*, an art work has value as a creation because man is made in the image of God, and therefore man not only can love and think and feel emotion but also has the capacity to create.

Schaeffer, Francis A., Art and the Bible (IVP Classics) (p.50-51). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

How does it change your perspective when your art is being produced for God?

Do you give God credit for the art you do?

Do we understand the freedom we have under the lordship of Christ and the norms of scripture? Is the creative part of our life committed to Christ?

Christ is the Lord of our whole life and the Christian life should produce not only truth flaming truth—but also beauty.

Schaeffer, Francis A., Art and the Bible (IVP Classics) (p. 48). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

² And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. ³ And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

"Great and amazing are your deeds,

O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Revelation 15:2-3

How does the Bible help with visual creativity?

In the Middle Ages and beyond the reformation, the arts were all considered crafts.

Perceptions about the arts began to change during the Romantic period. Art came to be seen as "fine art" or high culture": the crafts came to be considered inferior. The arts were disconnected from life, and the artist was deemed a king of noble genius.

The Arts are music, literature, and painting, and crafts became known as household furnishings, clothes, and buildings.

- ...art became museum art instead of artistically made objects that were part of everyday life
-art also became very expensive

Along with their alienation of ordinary people there has arisen a special class of art interpreters" – reviewer and critics whose job it is to educate the rest of us so that we are able to understand the arts. Often there is a vast gulf between what the art interpreters claim is good art and what ordinary people enjoy.

Do you think that separating the term arts from crafts helped or confused how we look at being an artist?

Indeed, we currently see a crisis in the arts that leads to the question, Why am I working at this? By the Romantic vision of art, the artist is driven inward to find his or her identity in and through the work produced. But a problem arises: what if one finds only emptiness inside?

How are we as Christians to respond to such charges, criticisms, and challenges? We do need to make a response for the sake of Christians who have been gifted by God and who wish to pursue this calling. And our response should include the following:

- *Art needs no justification.* It is simply a gift of God, part of His created reality, to be received like any other gift with gratitude.
- We must not say that "art is for art's sake", for this is the Romantic heresy. Art is to be tied to the reality of God's creation and to our human calling to live as His image bearers.
- *The Christian artist will regard himself or herself as a craftsperson.* Artist will see themselves not as self-serving visionaries, but as ordinary humans (that is glorious enough!) with a particular calling from God to serve Him and their fellow humans by working with words, music, color, stone, metal, and so on.
- Most importantly, the Christian in the arts will be committee to humility. The true artist does not say, "I will be an artist, and inspired voice of gods" (this is too religious a claim), or the "revealer of truth," as if a prophet, or a "self-revealing genius" (these suggest that only the artist can truly see reality). Rather, the true artist sees his or her work within the context of and as a subset of God's larger and infinitely more creative work. The true artist values something more then self. The true artist holds up a mirror to what God has made.

Echoes of Eden: Reflections on Christianity, Literature, and the Arts by Jerram Barrs © 2013 (pages 34-38)

Creative Design Art for God's Sake November 21, 2021

Beautiful Savior

Showing hope and pointing true art to the gospel.

No Ocean Big Enough: The Beauty of God in the World He Made – John Piper <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52VpFA7MKAo</u>

God's standards are essential attributes of His being (good, true and beautiful).

What kind of art would be worthy of God?

Describe God's beauty visually?

What makes something visually beautiful?

³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. Isaiah 53:3-4

How can the arts transform the ugliness of sin? (example: the death of Christ on the cross.)

His design was to transform ugliness into beauty. He did this first with the body of his Son, raising Jesus from the dead and giving him a glorious resurrection body more beautiful than anything we can imagine.

Philip Graham Ryken. Art for God's Sake: A Call to Recover the Arts (Kindle Locations 326-327). Kindle Edition.

How would you describe or show hope in Christ's crucifixion?



We have looked at how to Define Christian Art, Art in the Church, the Calling of Christian Artists, the History of Art in the Church, All Kinds of Art, How Art Glorifies God, Art Work as an Art Work and showing our Saviors Beauty and Hope.

Over the past 10 weeks, what have you discovered about your understanding of Christian Art and being a craftsman?

Is your definition of Christian art different or the same since the start of this class?

We are living in a fallen and broken world; yet for all its ugliness, this world was made by God and will be saved by his grace. Therefore, we should devote our skill to making art for the glory of God, and for the sake of his Son-our beautiful Savior, Jesus Christ.

Philip Graham Ryken. Art for God's Sake: A Call to Recover the Arts (Kindle Locations 345-346). Kindle Edition.